

↓ Zuckerman 2-21-78

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Fayerweather Hall

16 February 1978

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Josh,

Had a pleasant chat with Douglas Sloane at TC about his study of science in New York. In brief:

(1) He is writing and doesn't think he will have anything to show anyone until May-June.

(2) His present focus is 1860-1906. He hadn't planned to say anything about the Rockefeller because of that. It's possible he will continue the study further in time but that depends on whether some other project he is interested in comes through. I told him Rockefeller had good archives and of your interest.

(3) He is studying the variety of scientific societies and institutions which developed in NY after the Civil War and is concentrating on the American Museum, the Columbia School of Mines and the Torrey (Torrey??) Botanical Club. He has found that by the 1880s these societies were tightly intertwined with overlapping memberships and sharing concerns with community oriented - NY industry oriented problems. Partly this also involved a kind of NY boosterism. He found that many participants were what he calls "lay specialists" - people without formal training who were more knowledgeable than amateurs. But, by the 1890s, the Columbia faculty came to dominate all these groups and squeezed out the laymen on the grounds that professional expertise should hold sway.

(4) I asked him if he had looked into the existence of this pattern in Boston, and Philadelphia* -- He hadn't. He also knew nothing about the subsequent period and hadn't looked into the educational system (either secondary or CCNY) and its contribution to the development of science in NY.

(5) I told him something about our joint concern with NYC as an overproducer of scientists (and its probable link with the interest of second-generation immigrant Jewish boys in science as intellectual challenge and as avenue for social mobility.) He's obviously a southerner (the drawl is still there) and hadn't heard of Stuyvesant or Bronx Science.

Professor Joshua Lederberg

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(6) We agreed to keep in touch and that he would send his MS when he was ready.

Best,

Harriet Zuckerman
Associate Professor

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I also directed him to Arnold Thackray and his Manchester businessmen who were active participants in scientific societies in that city in the 19th century.